

Labor News

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Presenting to the workers and the public the facts concerning matters affecting labor and the wage earner's interests at large. Constructive in policy and non-partisan in politics. Free from domination by any interests or factions, either within the labor movement or without.

An exponent of justice to all, a square deal to employer and employee alike, with a desire to serve the best principles of trade unionism and at the same time create a better understanding and co-operation between capital and labor.

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NEW HAVEN, CONN., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1923.

JOHN LANDRIGAN.

Organized Labor in New Haven, Connecticut and the entire world, lost a staunch and true worker this week through the sudden death of John Landrigan of New Haven who died in Florida from poison resulting from an infected finger. John Landrigan's whole hands had been almost worn off in the struggles of Organized Labor during his early years so it's irony that his death came from such a trivial infection.

John Landrigan's life was a model for surviving union men to follow. He was one of the original members of the Musicians Union, and also a member of the polishing trades branches and for years represented them at the New Haven Trades Council. When John Landrigan missed a meeting of the central body it was occasion for remark.

As in all his doings in life John was faithful to the cause of Labor. May his example go on forever.

MAKE IT A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas has come and gone and through the efforts of organized workers throughout this great land of ours, the little ones of not only Union workers but of practically all workers who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow had a Merry Christmas with all it means to them. For during the year just passing Organized Labor alone has stood like a bulwark against the onslaught of greedy capital and succeeded in keeping wages up to a standard where the workers child could live and get a few playthings from Santa Claus this week and, like in all other cases where Labor has fought the fight, the other fellow benefitted.

How will it be a year hence?

That is alone for the worker to answer—not only the organized Worker but every worker for "Big Business" is not through yet with its wage slashing even though it has been temporarily stunned into inactivity by the unexpected power of resistance that Organized Labor put up. It will make even more strenuous efforts to institute the Open Shop and that means lower wages and its up to the workers to "stand pat" as they say in Washington and not let them get away with it.

The presidential campaign that will hold the boards in the fall, will also have something to do with it, as from the utterances of President Coolidge and some of his followers, the present administration is bound hand and foot to the enemies of Labor and therefore these same enemies will have no hesitancy to back them up with a drive or two against the workers despite the great industrial prosperity the country is now enjoying in spite of them. The only way this can be headed off is by activity in Congress to show the powers that be at present just where Labor intends to get off if crowded too far while the financiers backing up the drives against them continue to pile up huge profits.

Organized Labor can but should not be expected to do it alone. The unorganized workers, many of them are willing to help but are actually afraid to do so because of their jobs. They should be shown and if every real Honest to Goodness Organized Worker will do his part and do it early this year and get these fellows into the organizations of their crafts, Christmas 1924 will be even happier all around than this one just past was.

The country financially, industrially and otherwise was never in better condition. Why shouldn't the worker have his share of this plentitude and spread it on down through his family in a little more pleasure a little more recreation, a little better education and wholesome food? There's no reason but with the worker himself.

Let him get busy and MAKE it a happy new year all the way through.

OBLIGATIONS OF MANAGEMENT

Many industrial executives keep their noses so close to the grindstone of production that they fail to see that the stone needs dressing or that the belt which drives it is slipping.

No factory manager would permit a competitor to come into his factory and put dark glasses on all his employees, thus impairing their ability to see their work. Yet dirty, smoky windows and skylights, cleaned but once every three or six months, dingy walls and insufficient artificial lights do this very thing in many plants.

Sabotage is an ugly word representing an uglier thing. Yet the results of premeditated sabotage, scattered, infrequent, and detectable as they are, are far less harmful than the almost universal, unconscious sabotage of neglected maintenance which reaches out its destroying hand in thousands of busy plants, stopping machines, halting production, piling up unnecessary costs, cutting into the profit margins and chipping away, bit by bit, ceaselessly, the sum total of invested capital in every industrial enterprise.—From "Industrial Management."

BEWARE LYING PROPAGANDA

Representative George Huddleston of Alabama performed a distinct public service in his recent vigorous attack on the lying propaganda which presents the farmers and the city workers as opposing forces, having nothing whatever in common.

Speaking in the House, Mr. Huddleston pointed out that the farmers and industrial workers have much in common. He exposed the falsity of the "arguments" of those who assert otherwise and showed how the propagandists falsify and ignore facts to bolster up their contention that farmers and industrial workers must be at swordpoints.

Declaring that the possibilities of economic cooperation or partnership between farmers and wage earners are stupendous, Mr. Huddleston cited instances of how the producers and consumers are gouged. He said that it is estimated that in 1922 the farmers of the United States received a total of \$7,500,000,000, for their produce

and that for the same produce the consumers paid \$22,000,000,000. The farmer who produced the commodity received less than 30 cents from each dollar that the consumer paid for it, so that there went to handlers, speculators, dealers, carriers, and other middlemen 70 cents from each dollar that consumers paid, Mr. Huddleston added. Mr. Huddleston went on to say that the highest duty of the statesmanship of America is to bring the producers face to face with the consumers in direct dealing so as to permit the least possible intervention of middlemen.

This is a sentiment to which the masses of America can subscribe, with the wish that the day is not far distant when the nation will see its way clear to bring about that cooperation that Mr. Huddleston so strongly advocates.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR UNION

There is no substitute for the labor union.

I have been in the labor movement for thirty years, and I have done a frightful lot of talking and writing in that time. But in season and out, I have persistently endeavored to get across to my fellow workers the idea expressed in my opening sentence.

There is no substitute for the union.

It is the workers' Verdun. If the union falls, the labor movement will be destroyed.

Therefore our first thought should be, "preserve the union."

But that devotion should not prevent us using other weapons.

Chief among those weapons is education. The workers must know what is going on in the world, as well as what has gone on in the world. A knowledge of what has gone on may enable us to deal effectively with what is going on.

How is this knowledge to be conveyed to the workers? To my mind there is only one way:

Labor must have its own press—owned by labor, controlled by labor, edited by labor, subject to no outside influence.

Political action is another great weapon. Many of labor's battles in the future will be decided at the ballot box. Thousands of men died, tens of thousands rotted in prison cells, countless thousands suffered in body and mind in order that the workers of today might have the ballot. We cannot afford to be careless in the use of a legacy purchased at such tremendous sacrifice.

In politics the workers must be independent. They must not wear the party collar. They must support men and measures, and refuse to become mere camp followers of political bosses.

We are justified in facing the future with confidence. God has been very good to the workers of America. No enemy can vanquish us if we are only true to ourselves.

A REPLY TO COAL PROPAGANDA

Edgar Wallace, one of the national legislative representatives of the American Federation of Labor, is a coal miner. He recently received the following letter from a gentleman who evidently was impressed by what he read in the daily newspapers:

"My attention has been called to a statement in the newspapers that a pick miner in the central Pennsylvania bituminous coal fields earned \$250 in two weeks. Can this be true?"

Mr. Wallace's reply, which was a model of its kind, was as follows:

"The miners in Central Pennsylvania receive \$1 per ton for digging the coal loose from the hard coal face and loading it into cars. Hence, in order to make \$250 in two weeks this miner must have dug 21 tons of coal per day for 12 days—a superhuman task. But grant it is true that some man did dig that tremendous amount of coal in the time mentioned and received \$250 for the same, the same coal in the cities will cost the consumer \$12 a ton, or \$3,000."

"Why worry about the \$250 alleged to have been received by this miner? Let us rather speculate as to why and how the other \$2750 has been added to the cost and charged to the consumer."

How easy it is to dispose of propaganda when you have the right answer!

THE OPEN SHOT

Nwe Years resolution by certain cabinet members—Resolved that I will insist my bootlegger keep my name off any list liable to be found by the cops in a raid.

By Congressman John Q. Tilson—Resolved that if the corset industry doesn't need any further protection I will endeavor to get behind Winchester's so as to make their arm gauges the standard for the country.

By C. L. Bardo, New Haven road high mogul—To bust that railroad shop strike even if I bust the road or a lung in yelling about it.

By The Hartford Courant—To renew those advertisement on the "Open Shop" pages for another year but to get more money for them next time. The open shoppers must make up our losses in other directions.

By Governor C. A. Templeton—Not to step on J. Henry's pet corns any more this year than is possible, even if I do not seek another term as governor as Henry might get peeved about it some day.

By Henry Ford, auto mechanic—To get Cal Coolidge into one of my flivvers and run him in circles around the Washington monument right back into the White House providing Bill Bryan and Hi Johnson don't upset the darn machine.

By Heck and By George—To let George alone until the next election and then if that tax hasn't been reduced, the soldiers bonus repaid and beers and wines restored to go on one "helluva" rampage.

Speaking of that promised tax reduction do you notice how kindly Big Business takes to it. When you get yours it will be in the form of a bill to pay for the reduction on real incomes.

President Pearson of the New Haven sends his greetings to all employees on the system. Yep even to the shopmen they're firing in bunches. Even they are part of the system bad as they are but yet they are in keeping with the system and should be greeted.

P. B. O'Sullivan, congressman out of the ordinary from Connecticut because he is a democrat is getting on at Washington. P. B. hasn't been on the job a month but comes home for the holidays on a battleship. But then P. B. was in the navy during the war so he's entitled to such a short enlistment.

The lawyers union, called American Bar Association, chartered a British ship to take them on a jaunt to Europe and therupon raised a row. Well why now—there's bar associations and bars and old style bars on British ships.

Well let's get out the grape juice (unfermented and without raisins) and sing altogether—

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

By the Way

Well, it has come to this, the Old Year dies.

It's a simple fact, not new to anyone. We knew a year ago that it would happen. Years are about the only things whose span of life is fixed at birth. Calendars proclaim it with nice precision.

To be sure, it was not always so. And in the past there has been confusion among the peoples of the earth as to what should be the life of a Year. The Russians used to kill their old Years off quite a way from January first. And there have been other ideas than theirs in the past as to when Years should die. Even on our own continent the history of the past discloses a different date of demise, before the advent of white men.

We have all pretty well got around to the idea of a world-wide interment and a world-wide, universal birthday for Years. January first seems to have been picked on as the birthday of Years. So, the natural flight of time has brought us to another Year's end and by the same token to another Year's birth.

Farewell, and greetings!

The Old Year has been a hummer and don't let anyone fool you about that.

"Right off the bat the wage cutters and the 'open shoppers' had to be attended to. They were crazy men with a crazy idea. Wage cutting meant a mild form of throat cutting. 'Open shop' meant assault and battery on the unions."

As Cicero might have said, "Away with that stuff." And it has pretty much been put away.

The fools have not all quit business at the old stand yet, to be sure, but the old stand is indeed wobbling as the Old Year dies.

Truth survives the cycles of time and forever works for human progress and freedom.

Blazing like a golden star in the heavens, the American Federation of Labor convention stands out among the Year's events.

It was a wonderful gathering, devoted to high purposes.

Human kind will long remember the declaration there adopted, proclaiming Labor's purpose to strive for industrial democracy—its faith in the will of the people, in industry as in politics.

If only the political congress possessed the wisdom, the courage, and the vision of that Labor congress!

Ku Klux Klan—typified by a punctured sheet—the Year's contribution to the burlesque stage!

With much mummery, much gibbering, much parading, torch-flaring, mimicry and blarney, the Klan has tried to scare little children and frighten timid persons.

The Klan pulled the stopper clear out of the old mystery bottle and tried to dope the country.

The end of the Year finds the population recovering. Those who were stricken are in many cases getting so they can go about without being afraid of the dark. They are getting so they can smile a little and not jump when they see an unfamiliar shadow.

Hokum, like tinsel, wears off with time.

There was the Kansas Court, booming along with gusto when the Year came among us. Now look at it. The only place where it can find fitting surroundings now is in the musty pages of old Joe Miller's joke book.

There may it repose to amuse future generations. The Supreme Court knocked it for a row of oriental hen coops, and Gov. Allen went into mourning and retirement. For the rest of us, we step on the gas and say, impolitely—and perhaps even impishly—"we told him so."

The day of compulsion and coercion "has went."

The ranks of organized labor are stronger with the close of the Year than at its birth. There's majesty about the impregnable character of this tremendous movement.

However it may be buffeted, it moves on with added strength, always with the same great purpose, always with greater and ever greater determination.

Altogether the Old Year has been a good Year. The balance shows more for which to be grateful than otherwise. Progress has held the ascendancy. Much there has been of evil and of destructiveness. But we have more than held our ground. It is good. Come, 1924. It has been decreed that your turn is next.

Corporal Purposes.

Customer: Have you any garden hose?

Hardware Clerk: Yes, sir. How many feet do you wish?

Customer: Two will do. My boy has hidden the strap I formerly used on him.

Carried Out.

Dealer: Here, what are you doing with those teaspoons in your pocket?

Customer: Doctor's orders.

"What do you mean—doctor's orders?"

"He told me to take two teaspoons after every meal."

The Last Straw.

Father: Look here, my dear, I don't mind you sitting up late with that young man of yours, but I do object to his taking my morning papers when he goes!

Baerfacts

By J. M. BAER, The Congressman-Cartoonist.
International Labor News Service

Let "Organize" Be 1924 Keynote

There were many achievements in 1923 for which labor might pause and celebrate. A victorious invading army, however, does not stop and hold a banquet after each battle. It fights on until the foe is completely vanquished.

So let union labor continue its crusade for human rights, justice and truth. Instead of glorying in its successful past, the American Federation of Labor has a definite program which it is building for the future. Its program can only be carried out by organizing—for it is only through uniting that the influence of the workers can be effectively and powerfully felt.

Let "Organize" be the keynote for 1924.

At the beginning of the new

year it is customary to make resolutions.

Let each member of organized labor resolve that he will add one or more members to his union in 1924.

Let each member of organized labor resolve to regularly do it!

Let all union men, and their wives, resolve to only buy union-made goods.

Let us resolve to patronize the labor newspapers.

Let's resolve, above all things,

If each member of organized labor would carry out these few simple resolutions, 1924

would be the most successful year of trade unionism in America and every trade and craft would be organized 100 per cent.

HENDERSON HITS.

(Continued from Page One.)
finish will take the general manager in its grasp."

"I don't receive any income or salary for writing, or venting my spleen, as Mr. Bardo terms it. I have been able to continue my office through the loyalty of my wife and family, and the membership of System Federation No. 17. That is my answer to that question."

"I take the position that Mr. Bardo has destroyed the indispensable transportation agency, and made a lasting job of it. There isn't a railroad that I know of in this country today, that is in such a deplorable condition, and who can gainsay the cause of it. Where is there a railroad in the country with such a densely populated territory along its line of road as the New Haven has? Still with all the advantages it has at its command it is staggering in a hopeless quagmire of deficits; when it should be showing a handsome surplus and paying dividends on its stock. What is to blame for this condition? The management through its inejunct and disastrous operation!"

"I have found that there are other stockholders than the writer, and some of them holding a goodly amount of stock who think just as I do, and that is, that there should be a whole revamping of the officialdom of the New Haven railroad."

Mr. Henderson says in his statement that Mr. Bardo and various other officials of the New Haven road have spent a lot of their time to his (Henderson's) knowledge going around to chambers of commerce, Rotary clubs and banquets, and even desecrating places of worship, venting their spleen on the striking shopmen.

"I wonder," the secretary goes on in his answer, "did they use any of their own finances for that purpose? I think I can safely say no. I think I can safely say that they used the stockholders' and the public's funds for that purpose."

Release of 118 prisoners serving terms in seven states "solely for their beliefs and expression of opinion" asked by committee of educators.

:: BRIDGEPORT ::

Labors's Buying Guide

BANKS
First National Bank, The.
Mechanics and Farmers Bank.
Bridgeport Savings Bank.
City Savings Bank.
West Side Bank, The.

CLOTHIERS
Cesor Misch, Main, Golden Hill and Middle Sts.
The Modern Clothes Shop, 1290 Main St.
Joseph Miller, Cor. Fairfield Ave. and Middle St.

CONFECTIONERS
The Paradise, opp. Stratfield Hotel.
DEPARTMENT STORES
Bernstein & Brown's Department Store, 1354 Main St.

FLORISTS
Hawkins, Florist, Theatre Bldg.

FURNITURE
H. E. Katz, 1404 Main St.

GENTS' FURNISHINGS
Banner Store, 1339-1341 Main St.

FURNITURE
C. J. Collins Co., 81 Fairfield Ave.

FURNITURE
George B. Clark, 1057-1073 Broad St.

JEWELERS
Hadley Co., The, Broad and John Sts.

JEWELERS
G. W. Fairchild & Son, Inc., 997 Main St.

JEWELERS
M. J. Beucher & Son, Inc., 48 Fairfield Ave.

MILLINERS
Neuhoff's, 1105 Main St.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Joseph Kraus, 99 Fairfield Ave.

RESTAURANTS

Republic Restaurant, 174 Fairfield Ave.

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